

Dodd to Push Harder for Gun Controls

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) yesterday served notice he will press harder than ever for action on legislation strengthening the Federal Firearms Act in the wake of the assassination of the President and two other slayings in Dallas.

"It points up tragically the need to make it more difficult to purchase handguns or rifles, particularly by persons with a police record," said Dodd.

Dodd's bill, introduced Aug. 2, followed his investigation of juvenile delinquency and was aimed particularly at sales of firearms to juveniles.

But had it been on the books, Dodd told The Post yesterday, it would have made it far "tougher" for Lee Harvey Oswald to have purchased by mail order the imported rifle he acquired for \$12.78.

The tragic round of events in Dallas meanwhile brought influential new support to the measure. "You keep after that gun bill, I'm with you," Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) told the Connecticut Democrat yesterday.

Dodd's bill, still awaiting action in the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, originally was cosponsored by Sens. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.), Hiram L. Fong (R-Hawaii) and the late Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.).

It would set up a uniform national firearms law, and increase the license fees of firearms manufacturers, dealers and pawnbrokers.

It would prevent shipment of firearms to anyone under 18. Any purchaser would be required to get a notarized statement that he was over 18 and had not been convicted of a felony. He would also have to certify that no local law is violated by the purchaser and that the name and address of the buyer was correct.

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